

## REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. In the non-final Office Action of December 21, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bianco, et al. (U.S. 6,256,737)* ("*Bianco*"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and address the Examiner's disposition below. Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner previously allowed the present claims over *Bianco* in the Office Action dated 5/21/2007. However, in the present Office Action of 12/21/2007, the Examiner now alleges that the present claims are again rejected in light of *Bianco*. Applicants respectfully submit the present claims are allowable over *Bianco* as discussed below.

Claims 1, 12, 22, and 27 each claim subject matter relating to an information processing apparatus that outputs a request for issuing a person identification certificate to a person identification certificate authority, when the information processing apparatus determines that the person identification certificate has not been received from the person identification certificate authority and stored locally in a local storage device of the information processing apparatus.

Thus, the information processing apparatus determines whether the person identification certificate has been received from the person identification certificate authority and stored locally in a local storage device of the information processing apparatus. If the information processing apparatus determines that the certificate has not been received and stored locally, then it outputs a request for issuing a person identification certificate to the person identification certificate authority.

This is clearly unlike *Bianco*, fails to disclose or suggest an information processing apparatus that determines whether a person identification certificate has been received from a person identification certificate authority and stored locally in a local storage device of the information processing apparatus, prior to retrieving the certificate. As noted previously, *Bianco* stores all templates at a remote server. In *Bianco*, every biometric device obtains a template from a server. Nowhere does *Bianco* suggest an information processing apparatus that makes a determination of whether a certificate has been received and stored locally, prior to requesting the certificate from a remote location. Instead, *Bianco* always requests a template from a remote server. Thus, for at least this reason, *Bianco* fails to disclose or suggest claims 1, 12, 22, and 27.

In the Office Action dated December 21, 2007, pages 3-4, the Examiner correctly states that *Bianco* includes a biometric server 104, which is a server, and a separate computer 208, which acts as a client. The Examiner alleges, based on this teaching, that *Bianco* performs the assertive step of determining whether a certificate has been received and stored locally. *Bianco*

makes no such teaching or suggestion. The mere fact that *Bianco*'s server 104 and computer 208 have a client/server relationship is unrelated to whether *Bianco* performs the assertive step of determining whether a certificate has been received and stored locally. *Bianco* simply fails to make this determination. And simply because *Bianco*'s server 104 and computer 208 have a client/server relationship, does not suggest that *Bianco* makes this determination -- the client/server relationship merely means that the computer 208 and server 104 have a client/server relationship.

Therefore, *Bianco* fails to disclose or suggest claims 1, 12, 22, and 27.

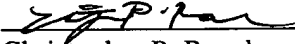
Claims 2-11, 13-21, and 23-26 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 12, 22, and 27 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 12, 22, and 27 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-27 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 45,034)  
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